

Remarks

Claims 13-52 were pending in the Office action. Claim 14 was cancelled and new claim 52 was added. Claim 52 corresponds to claim 14 in independent form. Therefore, claims 13 and 15-53 are currently pending in the Office action. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13, 15-17 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,205,719 to Bruce ("719"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, with regard to independent claim 13, the Examiner states, "a connector (116, 120) having a telescoping element (200) and means (202, 206) wherein the means (202) is fixedly connected to the telescoping element (200)... column 3, lines 20-35." Office action, at 2. In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 recites, "means for connecting said telescoping element to said base support which means is in fixed relation with said telescoping element...." Applicant respectfully submits that the means 202 (cap) in the '719 patent is not in fixed relation with the telescoping element 200 as it is connected to telescoping element via hinge pin 206 which allows it to pivot at the hinge pin. Thus, the means 202 is in moveable relation with the telescoping element, not in fixed relation as recited in Applicant's claim 13. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 13 is in condition for allowance. As claims 15-23 depend from claim 13, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as independent claim 13.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 14 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that new claim 53 corresponds to claim 14 written in independent form. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 53 should be allowed.

Claims 24-52 were allowed.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons submitted above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13 and 15-53 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner's next action is other than allowance of the pending claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney at 408-297-9733.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313

Signed: *Sally Azevedo*
Typed Name: Sally Azevedo
Date: March 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Gina McCarthy

Gina McCarthy
Reg. No. 42,986

P.O. Box 2-E
San Jose, CA 95109-0005
(408) 297-9733